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A  
T R E A T I S E  
OF THE  
Nature and Use  
OF THE  
*Bitter Purging Salt.*

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REAR VIEW

OF THE

Naval and Military

OF THE

British Empire

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## TREATISE

OF THE

NATURE and USE

OF THE

*Bitter Purging Salt.*

Easily known from all Counterfeits by its Bitter Taste.

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Written Originally in Latin, by *Nehemiah Grew*, Doctor in Physick, Fellow of the College of Physicians and of the Royal Society.

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And done into English.

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London, Printed in the Year 1700.

# TREATISE

IN THE ART AND MYSTERY

OF THE

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AND THE ARTS OF THE ARTS

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**T**Ractatum hunc, cui Titulus, *De Salis  
Cathartici amari, in Aquis Ebesha-  
menfibus, & hujusmodi aliis contenti, Naturâ  
& Ufu*; Authore *Nehemia Grew, M.D. Re-  
galis Collegii Medicorum Londinensium, &  
Regiæ Societatis Socio*, dignum judicamus  
qui imprimatur :

Datum ex Ædibus  
Collegii nostri in  
Comitiis Cenfo-  
riis, *Maii 3. 1695.*

*Johannes Lawson, Præfes.*  
*Samuel Collins*  
*Rich. Torless*  
*Edv. Tyson*  
*Mart. Lister* } *Censores*

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T O T H E

Two Famous and Celebrated

S O C I E T I E S

O F

*Royal Foundation.*

As well that instituted for the Advancement of

Natural Knowledge,

As the other, especially for that of

Medicine,

NEHEMIAH GREW

Wisheth all Happiness.

I Present you, *most Excellent Sirs*, with the following *Treatise*, in *two Parts*. The *First* whereof, *Of the Nature of the Bitter Waters, and of their Salt*, I drew up long since,

since, as a *short Paraphrase* upon one Title of Nature, to be inserted into the *Pandect of Materia Medica*, with your good liking.

The above-mentioned *Salt* more than 15 Years past \*, at a *Publick Meeting* of *Philosophers*, the *Lord Brouncker* being then *President*, was by me shewed to the *Board*.

Afterwards, some of You, my *Learne Brethren*, began to make it your selves and also to prescribe it in your *Practice*.

The *latter Part*, Of the *Use of the Water and of their Salt*, required the *Proof* of many Years *Experience*; and *my own* to be added unto *Yours*. Of what singular *Use* therefore, in many, and those, great and dangerous *Diseases*, it is to be accounted both *You*, my *worthy Colleagues*, and my self also, can give our united *Testimonies*. But whether I have promis'd any more than the *Medicine* will make good, I am content should be referred to Your *Judgments* and unquestionable *Experience* herein. Its *Use* undoubtedly is of that large *Extent*, that as *Common Salt* is the *Sauce* of

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\* Now near eighteen Years.



( in )  
most Meats, so this may not improperly be  
stiled, *The Seasoner of Medicine.*

In reckoning up the *Diseases* for which it  
is most effectual, I thought fit to mention  
some other Remedies, as apt Assistants here-  
in. With this Intent, that I might not seem,  
after the way of *Mountebanks*, to boast of  
some new-invented *All-heal*. Yet I have  
hardly any where set down an entire *Method*  
*of Cure*. Forasmuch as what I have here  
written is intended for the *Use*, not of *young*  
*Beginners*, but *experienced Physicians*, espe-  
cially those who practise in *Places* remote  
from this *City*: Whom, if I have shewed the  
*Virtues* of a *Medicine*, until now a *Stranger*  
to them; it will be believed, I have done a  
*Work*, as not to them unwelcome; so, not  
vainly intended for the *Publick Good*. And  
therefore also as well as I could, what *you*  
*your selves* have wished should be done:  
Who envy not others your own Experience,  
nor aim at the *Monopoly*, but justly claim the  
*Custody* of *Natural Knowledge*, and of the  
*Health* of *Mankind*.

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THE  
CONTENTS

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PART the FIRST.

Of the Nature of the Bitter Purging Salt.

Chap. I. **O**F the Means whereby the Bitter Purging Waters came first to be generally known. Page

Ch. II. Of the Nature of the Bitter Purgin Waters. p. 2

Ch. 3. Of the Nature of the proper, that is of the bitter Salt of the purging Waters. p. 4

Ch. 4. Of the difference of the bitter purging Salt, from Allum, and from Common Salt p. 14

Ch. 5. Of the difference of the bitter purging Salt from Nitre, and from the Salt of Lime. p. 19

Ch. 6. Some further Observations of the same bitter Salt. p. 26

PART

## PART the SECOND.

Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt.

- Ch. 1. **O**F the Use of the bitter purging Salt in general. p. 31
- Ch. 2. Of the way wherein the bitter purging Salt is best prescribed. p. 36.
- Ch. 3. Of the Use of the bitter purging Salt in particular : and first, in Diseases of the Stomach. p. 39
- { Want of Appetite. p. 41
- { Disposition to vomit. p. 43
- { Pains in the Stomach like the Cholick. p. 44
- viz. in { The Hypochondriacal Affection with heat. p. 45
- { The Heart-burning. ibid.
- Ch. 4. Of the Use of the bitter purging Salt, in diseases of the Guts, and Parts adjacent,
- { The Cholick. p. 46
- { Worms. p. 47
- { Nephritick Pains. p. 48
- viz. in { Hot Urine. p. 49
- { The Strangury ibid.
- { A Diabetes. p. 50
- { The Jaundies. p. 51

Ch. 5. Of the Use of the bitter purging Salt  
in diseases of the Head,

viz. in { Madness. p. 5  
          { The Head-ach. p. 5  
          { The Megrims. p. 5

Ch. 6. Of the Use of the bitter purging Salt  
in some other diseases,

          { Mother-Fits. p. 5  
          { The wandring Gout. ibid  
viz. in { The scorbutick Itch. As also,  
          { At the end of the Small-Pox ;  
          { And in long Journeys. p. 60

Ch. 7. Of the Mis-use of the bitter purging  
Salt. ibid.

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PART the FIRST.

Of the Nature of the Bitter  
Purging SALT.

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CHAP. I.

*Of the Means whereby the Bitter Purging  
Waters came first to be commonly known.*

**O**F all the *Bitter Purging Waters*, those  
near to *Ebesham*, called *Epsom*, in the  
County of *Surry*, were about the  
year 1620. upon notice given of 'em  
by a Country-Fellow, the first generally known.  
For the first ten Years they were made use of  
only by some of the poor neighbouring People,  
externally, in washing their Old Sores.

Afterwards, the Lord *Dudly North*, Father to  
*Francis*, not long since Lord Keeper of the Great  
Seal of *England*, being of a melancholick Con-  
stitution, and having formerly drank the *Spaw-*  
*Waters* in *Germany*; thence took the hint to try  
the virtue of these also near *Epsom*: hoping, I

( 2 )  
suppose that he had met with the like *Chalybeate*  
or *Iron \* Waters*, here at home.

But notwithstanding that, in this respect they  
answer'd not his Wish and Expectation; yet he  
did not conclude he had tried them in vain,  
when he perceiv'd they purg'd him, as a Medi-  
cine sent from Heaven, with much Relief.

By his Example many others were encourag'd  
to try the Operation of these Waters. And a-  
mong the first, the Illustrious Princess *Maria*  
*de Medices*, Mother to the Wife of King *Charles*  
the First; the Lord *George Goring*, Earl of *Nor-*  
*wich*, and many other Persons of Quality.

These, and all others who drank of these *Wells*  
frequented them not as yet for their Pleasure  
but only for their Health; and therefore sent  
either for their own, or some other neighbouring  
*Physicians*, of whom they received Direction  
how to drink them.

Upon this, Physicians began to come to these  
*Wells* of their own accord; by whose Authority  
they became of so great account, that no less  
than two thousand People have met there in  
one day, to drink, or to divert themselves.

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\* *Chalybeate* or *Iron-Waters*.] The Author here complie  
with the Name in use, tho' perhaps improper: for which  
I have heard him give this Reason, because we have no know-  
ledge of making a volatile Vitriol, or Spirit of Iron; where  
as the Spirit contained in these Waters is volatile in a high de-  
gree. So that we may rather suppose them to be impreg-  
nated with either a *Marchasite*, or some such Mineral as is  
suppos'd to be a Companion to Iron.

A while after, *viz.* about thirty years past, many *Londoners*, not having Time, or Mony enough, to spend at these Wells, procured the Waters to be sent them thence.

Which occasion some taking hold of, furnished themselves with great Quantities, which they sold to *Apothecaries*, and those who were *advise'd* to drink them, as is also done to this day. The Reason why the *Wells* are less frequented by *Ailing* People now, than heretofore, not being because *Physicians* now-a-days have a meaner Opinion of them, but because the number of those who drink the *Waters*, either at home, or at other *Wells*, daily encreaseth.

For not long after those near *Epsom* came to be generally known, divers others of the same nature being found out, either upon search, or by *chance*, came into some Note and Use. The Names of the chief whereof I have hereunto subjoin'd.

	{	<i>Barnet</i>		{	<i>Hartfordshire.</i>
	{	<i>North Hall</i>		{	<i>Hartfordshire.</i>
At	{	<i>Acton,</i>	in	{	<i>Middlesex.</i>
	{	<i>Cobham,</i>		{	<i>Surrey.</i>
	{	<i>Dulwich</i>		{	<i>Surrey.</i>
	{	<i>Stretbam</i>		{	<i>Surrey.</i>

Besides these, the Curiosity of many being excited, may perhaps hereafter discover as many more yet unknown to us; especially with the help of this Indication, that sweet Springs commonly break forth about the *Tops* of Hills; but *These* for the most part, at the *Bottom*.

( 4 )  
C H A P. II.

Of the Nature of the Bitter Purging Waters.

**T**Hese Waters are indeed but moderately, yet sensibly Bitter, but scarce of any other taste \*.

Some in the account they give of their Travels, tell us of certain bitter Springs near Syria and Egypt. And S. James in his General Epistle, intimates as if sweet and bitter Waters were both equally known to the People in the Eastern Parts. A which bitter Waters may possibly be of this kind.

These Waters are not all equally bitter & strong, but some of them work a little more than others: of the stronger sort are those of *Durwich*; of the more gentle, those of *Epsom*.

These Waters, while in their own Wells, are without Scent; but being kept cover'd in Vessels for some days, or weeks, especially in Summer they will corrupt and stink; which sometimes happens to all others, even Spring-Waters themselves, in Ships which sail near the Equator.

This Water, tho' mix'd with a small quantity of Syrup of Violets, yet no way alters its blue Colour which thereupon remains the same as if it had been any other Spring-Water. B

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\* Scarce of any other Taste.] The Reader is to observe that this is said of the Waters, not of the Salt hereafter describ'd.



But a little Water impregnated with *Unslackt Lime*, being added to this Water, it becomes, as if with a few drops of *Milk*, of a *bluish* and *semi-perspicuous Grey*: and within about an hour, the coagulated parts, which cause that *Colour*, settle in the form of a *whitish Cloud*; produced by the union of the *Lixivial Salt of Lime* with that in the *Purging Waters*, which is potentially *Acid*.

All these *Purging Waters* will curdle *Milk*, if put to them when they boil, or are *boiling hot*; but not if mixed *cold*.

Any of these *bitter Purging Waters* being evaporated, or steamed away in a *Glass*, glazed, or other convenient Vessel, yieldeth both a certain *Cremor* at the top, and also a *Setling*; of both together about *six, eight, or ten Drachms* out of every Gallon of Water.

This *Cremor* \* is of an *Ashen Colour*, and in its whole substance *stony*, and seems to be of the nature of some sort of *Plaster*; but certainly not of the *Lime-stone*: for every one knows that *burnt Lime-stone*, upon pouring even cold Water upon it, grows very hot, and sends forth a great and thick *Steam*; and being applied to any part of our *Body*, hath a burning quality, and is there-

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\* This *Cremor* is — *stony*, and of the nature of some sort of *Plaster*.] And I have seen *Stones* taken out of the *Ground* where these *purging Springs* arise, of this nature; some of them *opacou*, of the *Colour* of the *Lapis Judaicus*, and some of them *transparent*, but all of them *glossy*; and *figur'd* on one *Edge* with a sort of *Indenture*.

fore used by Surgeons as a *Potential Caustick*. But the said *Cremor* being in a Crucible equally burnt neither produceth, upon the affusion of Water any steam nor grows hot, nor so much as in the least affecteth that most tender part, the Tongue it self.

Sometimes it consisteth (as that of *Acton Water*) of most extream small and thin shining *Plates*, very friable or brittle, and altogether tasteless, tho' burnt as aforesaid; yet upon the affusion of any Acid Liquor, and especially of *Spirit of Nitre*, will cause an Ebullition with some seeming heat.

The lesser part of the *Sediment* or *Settling*, is in Substance the same with the *Cremor* now describ'd; the rest is all Salt, but consisting of two sorts, the one a *Muriatick Salt*, the other that which is proper or peculiar to these Waters; the Nature and Virtues whereof I here intend to shew.

In *Epsom Water*, the *Muriatick Salt* is about a twentieth part of the *Saline Mixture*. In that of *Dulwich*, it is in a greater Proportion: And so in most of those above-mentioned. 'Tis both in its *Acrimonious Taste*, and the Figure of its Chrystals, not unlike to Common Salt: Whence it is, that those Waters which have less of this Salt in them work off more gently.

The other Salt is that, as I have said, which is special or proper to the *Purging Waters*: 'Tis made

made in the same manner \* as any *Lixivial Salt*, viz. by Evaporation, Filtration, and ChrySTALLIZATION; Calcination only being omitted. In this Preparation, first the Earthy or Plaistery part is to be separated from the *Saline*, and then the *Muriatick Salt*, with the brown and dark *Liquor* from that which is the proper Salt of the Waters.

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### C H A P. III.

*Of the Nature of the Proper, that is, of the Bitter Salt of the Waters.*

**T**HIS Salt, if perfectly prepared, is as beautifully *white* as the new fallen *Snow*.

Undissolved, it hath the same bitter *Taste* as the *Waters* themselves, but in a much higher degree: and is also acuated with a certain *Pungen- cy*, which is very penetrating, but without any *Acrimony*.

But if one *Drachm* of this Salt, or thereabout, be dissolved in a Pint of common *Water*, that is, in the same proportion as it hath to its own subterraneous *Water*; this *Common Water*, as it hereby obtains the same property of curdling

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\* *Tis made in the same manner as any Lixivial Salt.* ] That is, in the same general way; and so I am well assured it is. But also that the particular way of Evaporation, Filtration, and ChrySTALLIZATION here used, is very different from that used in the making of any *Lixivial Salt*.

Milk, so is ennobled with the very same (almost simply) *bitter Taste*, as the *Mineral Water* it self and with the same *Purging Virtue*; and may therefore not unaptly be distinguished, both from that called *Sal mirabile*, made of *Oil of Vitriol* and *Common Salt*, and from all other Salts, by the Name of the *Bitter Purging Salt*.

This *Bitter Purging Salt*, according as the Water wherein it resides is *more or less boiled*, and the *degree of cold* whereto it is afterwards expos'd and other *Circumstances*, shoots into *Chrystal* differently *fix'd*, but in *Figure*, whether small or great, much alike: for most of them, if they have room to shoot in, are so many small *Rectangular Prisms*, with *four Parallelogram Plains*; and, with two of them a little less and opposite somewhat flattish. Sometimes they are *Sextangular*, with two more *Parallel Plains*; but those so very small as hardly to be discerned. About half an *Inch* in *length*, exceeding their *thickness* five, six, or seven times. Stand upon a crusty *Base* of the same Salt. Their upper ends much vary'd, with sometimes three, usually four *inclined or sloped Plains*, making *Obtuse Angles* with the *Parallelograms* aforesaid, so as to be either pointed, or more often edg'd like a *Chizel*: of which upper Plains there is a *Pentangular* or *Sextangular* one, commonly greater than all the other three put together: to this an opposite, which is *Quadrangular* or *Pentangular*; the other two *Triangular*, and very small, sometimes hardly discernable without a *Microscope*. These

These Chryftals, in their being of a long Figure, come nearer to *Nitre* or *Salt-Petre*; and in being Rectangular, to *Common Salt*, than to any other Species of *Salt*.

The same *bitter Purging Salt*, being dissolved in fair *Water*, and let to stand for some days in a *Glass*, it shoots round about the sides of the *Glass*, into branched *Chryftals*, in imitation of little *Shrubs*. For the producing of which Figure, the now describ'd *Chryftals* of this *Salt*, as also those of *Nitre* (which ends sometimes with *Right Angles*, sometimes *Acute*) are made very fit, viz. by the application of the *Sloped Plain* of one *Chryftal* to the *Parallel Plain* of another.

In like manner as I have shewed  
\* the Generation of the Leaves  
of *Plants*, to be performed by  
their own *Salts*. Where, by the

\* *Anat. of Plants,*  
*Book 4. Part 1.*  
*Chap. the last.*

way, it is to be noted, that in that *Discourse*, I have represented the *Figures* of *Nitre* and other *Salts*, not altogether as we see them shoot, but as it is probable, they exist in the *Plants* themselves.

Put five *Drachms* of the *bitter Purging Salt* into a *Bottle*, with half an ounce of fair *Water*, and shake them very well; with this *Agitation* alone, and the gentle *Warmth* of the *Hand*, even in *Winter*, the *Water* will quickly imbibe all the *Salt*, a few *Grains* excepted; this *Salt* being much more dissoluble than most other *Salts*.

It is also distinguish'd from all other *Salts* by its

Specifick Gravity; that is, the weight hereof compared with the Bulk. As it is heavier than *Alum*; so much lighter than *Common Salt*: and also than *Nitre*; as will appear hereafter in the 5th Chapter.

A Solution of this Salt, and another of Salt of *Tartar*, or of any other *Lixivial*, or *Urinous Salt* \*, being mixed, produce a white *Coagulum* or *Curd*; or a certain kind of *Neutral Salt*, which is fitted neither like the one, nor the other, but in some sort *Astringent*.

*Oil of Vitriol*, very strong, and newly made, being drop'd upon this *Purging Salt*, causeth moderate *Ebullition*. Whereby it appears to partake of an *Alkaline Principle* †, which is also so capable of becoming in some sort *Lixivial*.

But no other *Liquor*, that I know of, whether *Alkaline* or *Acid*, being dropped upon the said *Salt*, gives it any manner of *Motion* or *Heat*.

This *Salt* being put in a *Crucible*, into a pretty bright *Fire*, it melts or flows much after the manner of *Alum*, and huffs up in the form of white, porous, and blubber'd *Calx*. Yet is the *Calx* almost wholly dissoluble in a sufficient quantity of *Water*.

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\* *Urinous Salt*.] Such as the *Volatile Salt* of *Harts-horn* or *Soot*, &c. † *An Alkaline Principle*, capable of becoming in some sort *Lixivial*.] Observe that these two are to be distinguished, viz. as the *Genus* is from the *Species*: For most *Lixivial Salts* are *Alcaline*; but there are many *Alcaline* (as *Testaceous Salts* actually existent in *Shells unburnt*) which are not *Lixivial*.

tity of fair Water, excepting perhaps a fortieth part of the whole: But the *Lime-stone* is nothing so.

This same *Calx*, burnt in a Crucible, for an hour in a good strong Fire, grows almost as hard as a *Bastard Alabaster*. Neither doth it afterwards become softer, upon its being expos'd to the *Aer*: much less doth it crumble into Powder, after the manner of *burnt Lime-stone*.

By being thus burnt, although it loseth some part of its weight, yet not of its bitter Taste, which on the contrary, is hereby augmented\*.

The same *Calx*, with *Spirit of Salt*, or other *Acid Liquor*, maketh an Ebullition more or less conspicuous, according to the Strength of the affused Spirit; and may therefore be accounted in some sort *Lixivial*.

A pound of this *Salt* being put into a *Coated Glass Retort*, and distill'd in a *Reverberating Furnace*, will afford in a *Receiver*, a little better than half a Pound of a certain *Acid Spirit*, both in Scent and Taste somewhat like to the *Spirit of Common Salt*.

*Oil of Vitriol* dropped upon *Spirit of Common Salt*, causeth a kind of thick and fummy steam, which also happens from the same *Oil*, if very strong, when dropped upon the *Spirit of the Purging Salt*.

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\* *Its bitter Taste is hereby augmented.*] Which shews the fixedness of its Principles, by the Union whereof the bitterness is produced.

It is very well known, that all Acidulated  
*Iron Waters*, will turn Purple with the Infusion  
of a Dyer's Gall: As will also White-wine *Vinegar*  
but of a duller Colour. But the same Infusion  
with the Spirit of the *Purging Salt*, though an  
*Acid*, yet makes no alteration: nor with Spirit  
of *Sulphur*, nor with Oil of *Vitriol*; whereby,  
well as by sundry other ways, the different na-  
ture of these and other *Acids* is discovered.

Having poured some *River-water* into eight  
*Drinking-Glasses*, and given them all the same  
*blue* Colour with a few drops of Syrup of *Violet*.  
I let one of them stand without any thing el-  
se superadded. To another, I put a little *Nitre*.  
To a Third, as much of the *bitter Purging Salt*.  
To a Fourth, the Infusion of *Quick-Lime* made  
with fair Water, commonly called *Lime-Water*.  
To a Fifth, a solution of the *Calx* of the *Purgin*  
*Salt*. To a Sixth, the Infusion of *white Tartar*. To  
a Seventh, the distill'd Spirit of the *Purgin Salt*.  
To the last, a little both of the *Calx* of the *Pur*  
*ging Salt*, and of *Lime-water*.

In the *three first*, the *blue* Colour remain'd  
without alteration, saving that it grew a little  
paler.

In the *fourth and fifth*, the said *blue* was pre-  
sently changed into a *Green*: but in the former  
somewhat *muddy* and a little *paler*; in the latter  
deep and clear, like that of an *Emerald*.

In the *sixth and seventh*, it turn'd *Purple*: but  
in the former, *dull*; in the other, like that of  
an *Ametyst*.

The



The *green Colour*, which in the *fourth* and *fifth* vanished in the space of three hours; in the *last*, was deeper and more permanent.

From this manifold Experiment we may observe that *Nitre*, although upon deflagration, it yields a *sixt*, and that a *Lixivial Salt*; and by distillation, an *Acid Spirit*: yet having neither a *Lixivial* nor an *Acid Taste*, it gives the Syrup neither a *Green Colour* nor a *Purple*. And by parity of Reason, we may conclude the same of the *bitter Purging Salt*: that is to say, that it is compounded of some Parts potentially *Acid*, that is, capable of becoming *Acid*; and of others which are *Alkaline*, and also capable of becoming in some sort *Lixivial*.

And that it really consisteth of both the said Principles, is evident from the *Acid Taste* of its Spirit; and the *green Colour* given to the Syrup by its *Calx*, in like manner as by *Lime water* and other *Lixivial Liquors*.

And in the last Glass, the *Colour* is therefore deeper, and more *Permanent*; because it is produced by the joint efficacy (as Ink of two *Astringents*, so this (of two *Lixivial Salts*, both that of the *Cathartick*, and that of *Lime*).

And it is plain, that the Being of these Salts and their Force in the changing of Colours, doth not wholly and altogether depend upon the Fire, because that the Infusion of *white Tartar*, gives the Syrup a purple Colour, as well as the Spirit of the *Purging Salt*.

Lastly, let it be noted, that I have called the *Alkaline Principle* of the *Purging Salt*, such a one as is capable of becoming, in some sort *Lixivial*: for neither in the *Calx* it self of this Salt (as hath already been observed in this Chapter) is there any *Lixivial Taste*. Notwithstanding which, from the Experiments afore-related the *Purging Salt* may be argued, before it hath felt the *Fire*, to be in part *Alkaline*; but when it is well burnt, to be in some sort *Lixivial*, albeit we may not so properly call it *Lixivia*, nor perhaps by any other Name which *UO* hath approved: For the Furniture of Words is in nothing more scanty \*, than it is in Philosophy; to wit, in that Philosophy, which, as the Handmaid of Nature, observeth her Varieties every where admirable, with exactest Discrimination and Diligence.

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\* *The Furniture of Words is in nothing more scanty, than it is in Philosophy.]* The Occasion of many false Conceptions of things, entertained and defended by unthinking Men, who having no other Images of things, but such as answer to some word in use; conclude the number of proper Words and of things to be the same.

## CHAP. IV.

*Of the Qualities whereby the Bitter Purging Salt differs from Alum, and from Common Salt.*

**F**rom the Experiments already brought, and next to be alledged, being thoroughly understood and compared\*, it will appear that the *Bitter Purging Salt*, altho' it hath some qualities in common with other Salts, yet is truly, or specifically different from them all.

'Tis thought by most to be produc'd of some certain *Aluminous Mine*; but upon no good ground. For how can that be proved? because it curdles Milk? 'Tis no proof at all. For by the same absurd Argument, *Vinegar, Wine, Ale,* and whatsoever else curdles Milk, wou'd be proved to be *Aluminous*.

Nor yet because it huffs up and blubbers like *Alum* when it's melted. For as much as melted *Borax* huffs up in the same manner: but *Borax* doth not coagulate Milk, and so is not *Aluminous*;

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\* *From the Experiments — compared:*] For tho' some of them may seem to be of less moment, taken alone; yet none of them but is of necessary use, not to be jointly considered towards the Author's giving of full satisfaction to the Reader in what he asserts; whom I have heard to say, That in Philosophy sometimes, a twopenny Experiment is of more value, than many of those pompous ones which glitter with Gold and Pearls.

neither therefore is the *bitter Purging Salt*.

Again, of an ounce of *Alum* burnt in a Crucible for half an hour, there remains half an ounce of *Calx*; to which *Calx* if you pour sufficient quantity of fair Water, till it hath imbibed all the dissoluble Parts, there will still lie the bottom of the Vessel above two and fifty Grains of a simple and insipid Earth; which more than six times as much as that which settl from the *Calx* of the *Purging Salt* dissolved in like manner.

Neither is the *Spirit of Alum*, distilled with strong Fire at all like the *Spirit of the Bitter Purging Salt*, as having a more *Acrimonious Taste* and nothing so pleasant; besides that it strike the Nose, which is specially to be observed, with a base *stinking Scent*, altogether like that of true *Spirit of Sulphur*\*, which the *Germans* call *Gass Sulphuris*, or that of melted and flaming *Brimstone*.

Add hereto, that the *Taste of Alum* is so different from that of the *Purging Salt*, that nothing can be more: For whereas that is not at all *bitter* but plainly *rough* or *acerb*; this, without any *Acerbity*, is plainly *bitter*.

They are likewise distinguished by their very different *Figures*. For the *Chrystals of Alum*

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\* *The True Spirit.*] Which cannot be made (as that commonly called the *Spirit of Sulphur*) by *Distillation*, but by placing flaming *brimstone* and fair *Water* so together, that the *Water* may receive and imbibe the steam of the *Brimstone*, which either is, or contains the *Gass* or *True Spirit*.

that is the factitious, being in their height a little flat, are comprehended within eight Plains; two of which, that above and that below, are Sexangular, and Parallel one to another: the greater and lesser Sides of each of these Plains, being alternately composed, so as the three greater are opposite to the three less. About these stand six *Quadrangular Plains*, with their Sides and Angles both unequal; the greater and the less alternately sloped towards the Centre of the Chrystal. But how very unlike this Figure is to that of the Crystals of the *Purging Salt* before describ'd, is visible enough by comparing them together.

Neither is there any better ground to account the *Purging Salt* a Species of *Common Salt*; from which being perfectly refined, it differs as much in Taste, as it doth from *Alum*.

As also in Figure; the Crystals of *Common Salt* not shooting in length, but so as to come very near the Figure, yet a little below the Altitude of a Cube\*.

Farther, the *Purging Salt* being put in a Crucible, into a strong Fire, it flies little more than half away, and that in an invisible Steam: but *Common Salt* committed to the same Heat; as, when melted, it becomes much more fluid; so it evaporates in a thick Steam like to Smoak, hard.

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\* *A Cube.*] The Crystals of Salt produced by evaporating the Water of the *Salt-Sea* in *Judea*, are most of them exact Cubes.

ly an eighteenth part of the whole remaining  
in the Crucible.

Neither (which may seem strange) doth the  
Spirit of *common Salt* curdle Milk after the same  
manner as doth the Spirit of the Purging Salt.  
I deny not indeed but that the Spirit of *common*  
Salt being poured, tho' in a moderate quantity  
upon Milk unmixt with any other Liquor, and  
when it boils, will make it curdle. Wherefore  
not to conclude upon Uncertainties, I made the  
Experiment in the following manner.

To a Pint of *boiling River-water* impregnate  
with a Dram of the Purging Salt, I put three  
or four Spoonfuls of Milk, and so let the Water boil  
again; upon which the Milk turn'd to a Curd  
swam upon the top of the Water.

And so it did in like manner, upon mixing  
a Drachm of the Spirit of the Purging Salt, in  
stead of the Purging Salt.

Lastly, instead of the Spirit of the Purging Salt  
I put the Spirit of *Common Salt* (rather its own  
than the Spirit aforesaid) and then the Milk  
and the Water, both of them in the same proportion  
as before; and so let the Water boil again  
which done, the Milk notwithstanding continu-  
ed in its own natural Fluidity, without making  
any Curd.

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\* *Remaining* ] And that which doth remain is not Salt  
but a true *Caput Mortuum*, of a kind of Brick-Colour, ind-  
soluble in Water, and so without any Taste.

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## CHAP. V.

*Of the Qualities whereby the Bitter Purging Salt differs from Nitre, and from the Salt of Lime.*

**N**OR can we for any better Reason, look upon the Bitter Purging Salt, as a sort of Nitre; from which it were sufficiently distinguished, if only by its *bitter Taste*.

And no less by its Figure; the Crystals of Nitre being comprehended, not within four *Parallelogram Plains*, but always six *Plains*; not within *Right Angles*, but *Obtuse*. And because the Tops of these are terminated, scarce ever with four, commonly with two, often with six sloped Plains; and those more equal than in the Purging Salt.

Likewise, in that being cast into the Fire, it is no ways inflammable. Much less doth it spend it self in bright and founding Flames, as Nitre doth, till it is almost consumed. I say, *almost*; for I deny not but in the 3d Chapter I have already intimated, that a very small part hereof (about a *twentieth*) after the Deflagration is ended, remaineth Fixed. Which yet is not at all Nitrous, but in Taste, and other qualities, truly Lixivial; being that which they who make Nitre, mix with it out of Wood Ashes.

Again, the Purging Salt being held in a Spoon

over the *flame of a Candle*, it melts within half the minute of an hour; and huffs up with blubbers in the same manner as if cast into the Fire. Whereas *Nitre*, with the same sort of heat, hardly melt at all; but requires at least an eight fold space of time, and a very bright Flame.

On the contrary, altho' it is melted more difficultly, yet with much greater fluidity; for being placed in a Crucible, in a good strong Fire it doth not blubber as Alum, or as the Purgin Salt, but like Rosin, or Metal, plainly flows.

*Nitre* also, melted in a Crucible, sends forth a thick and dark Steam; whereof there is no Appearance arising from the Purgin Salt, tho' with the most vehement heat.

They are moreover distinguished by the Property of curdling Milk. For half a Drachm of the Purgin Salt, being put into half a pint of boiling Milk, makes a considerable Curd, with a very thin Whey: But *Nitre* being added to Milk in the same manner, and in a much greater proportion, doth not curdle it at all.

The *Solubility of Nitre* is likewise less by the degrees, than that I have before prov'd to belong to the Purgin Salt. For half an ounce of *Nitre* in Water being well shaken; and assisted only with the Winter-warmth of the Hand, will dissolve no more than a Drachm and half of *Nitre*.

They are likewise different in weight, where I made the Experiment in manner following. I put Oil of Turpentine into a Cylindrick Glass,



it rose to the height of three Inches; then putting into the same Glass, two Ounces of the Purgings Salt, the Oil advanc'd to a fourth Inch. But the like quantity of pure Nitre being super-added, the Oil then ascended further, not more than three quarters of an Inch. Wherefore Nitre is heavier by one fourth \* part, than the Purgings Salt.

And yet Water, if impregnated with the Purgings Salt, takes up less space (the Bulk of the Salt consider'd) than if with Nitre: That is, Water being put into the Glass with these Salts instead of the Oil: upon the dissolution of the former, it will subside or sink lower, than of the latter †.

Lastly, Let Dantzick Vitriol, Sal Armoniack, and instead of Nitre, the bitter Purgings Salt, be mixt in the same proportion, and distill'd in the same manner as is done for the making of Aqua Regia. If then the Purgings Salt were a sort of Nitre, the Water distill'd from the said Mixture would dissolve Gold as well as the Aqua Regia. But we find no such Gold-dissolving Power in this Water.

Much less is it the Nitre of the Ancients: For neither is it that Egyptian kind, so often men-

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\* By one fourth Part ] That is, three times the Bulk of Nitre, makes equal weight with four times the Bulk of the Purgings Salt. † The Reader cannot so well understand this Experiment, except he have recourse to that Lecture, which the Author read some years since before the Royal Society, of the Solution of Salts in Water.

tioned by *Hippocrates*: nor that, not unlike it is described both by *Dioscorides* and *Pliny*, to be Purple, and of an *Acrimonious Taste*; nor yet that which *Aetius* prescribes, as if a *Bole*, to be burnt and quenched in Wine.

Neither in the last place can it be properly entituled, a *Limy Salt*: For the Purging Salt, or the Purging Water it self, put to Milk, makes much harder Curd, and more plentiful than *Lime-water*, that is, the *Infusion of Burnt Lime*. And what if it were produc'd by both alike? How many Liquors afore mention'd, curdle Milk, which are no more *Limy*, than they are *Aluminous*?

*Spirit of Nitre* dropped upon the *Cremor* or the top of *Lime-water*, or even upon *Lime Stone* when unburnt, maketh a conspicuous *Ebullition*. But the Purging Salt is with this *Spirit*, not at all affected.

There is no where found two more differing *Tastes*, than those of the Purging Salt, and *Lime-Water*; this being *Lixivial* and Sweet, that in a manner *Cold* and *Bitter*.

*Lime-Stone* burnt and unslackt, being sprinkled with a little Water, presently crumbles into Powder. On the contrary, the powder'd *Calx* of the Purging Salt, immediately becomes a hardish Substance, and continues for some Minutes almost like a Stone.

The Spring-Water near *London*, and notified by the Image of the *Holy Lamb*, and commonly called

called *Lambs-Conduit Water*; by pouring upon it a little *Lime-water*, presently grows whitish, with a kind of *grey Coagulum*, as doth the *Purging Water*. But *Water* impregnated with the *Calx* of *Purging Salt*, maketh the said *Lambs-Conduit Water* nothing muddy, nor colour'd, but it continues altogether as clear, as when it was unmixed.

Fair *Water* being impregnated with the bitter *Purging Salt*, and then evaporated, yields the same *Salt* again in *Quantity* and *Quality*, most entire. Contrariwise, the *Salt* of *Lime-Water*, evaporated in the same manner, is wholly turn'd into a *tasteless* and *stony Substance* †: The Cause whereof is, for that the *Salt* of the *Lime-water* is so far agreeable, and throughly united to some

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† *The Salt of Lime is turned into a tasteless and stony Substance.*] From which Experiment may be made this Remark, That the reason why *Mortar* is so good a *Cement*, is because the *Salt* contained in the *Lime*, not being dissolved like other *Salts*, but hardned, and really petrified by the *Aer*, becomes the *Cement* of the other parts of the *Lime*, whereby the whole *Mass* is in time converted again into a *Stone*. And that probably the *Mortar* which the *Romans* used, was harder than that we commonly meet with now-a-days; either because they made it of such *Lime* as had a greater *Plenty* of this *Salt*, or by burning it otherwise than is now usual, the *Salt* was laid more open to the *Aer*; or else by pouring upon unslackt *Lime*, not common *Water*, as is now always done, but *Lime-water*; whereby the *Salt*, bearing a greater proportion to the *Earth*, the whole *Mass* might acquire a greater *Hardness*, and in a less time. 'Twere easie to be tri'd.

( 24 )

other Aerial Salt, as therewith to constitute  
Third sort of Body different from them both. In  
like manner, as of the best Oils of *Vitriol*, and  
of *Annise-seeds*, mixt together, is produc'd a *Ra-  
sin*, properly so call'd, and if wash'd, altogether  
tasteless.

The proof whereof we may also make by the  
following Experiment. Let some *Lime water* be  
kept a Week, or longer, both in a corked Bot-  
tle, and in an open Vessel: In the Bottle the top  
of the Water remains naked; but in the open  
Vessel, where the Air hath a free access to the  
Water, it is cover'd with a *Cremor* insipid, and  
stony, properly so called.

But Water, in which the *Purging Salt* is dissol-  
ved, being committed to the *Air* for many days  
in an open Vessel, affords not a jot of the said  
stony *Cremor*; nor is that *Cremor* produc'd upon  
boiling the *Purging Waters*, at all of a *Limy* Na-  
ture, as is before proved.

Add hereto the extream difference in the *solu-  
bility* of these two *Salts*: for half an ounce of the  
*Purging Salt*, without any heat or much shaking  
is easily and presently dissolv'd in two ounces of  
fair Water: whereas half an ounce of the *Salt*  
contained in *Quick-Lime*, requires, to imbib  
it all, no less than two Gallons and half of fair  
Water; that is, three hundred and twenty  
Ounces, or a hundred and sixty times as much  
Water as the former. For so much fair Water  
necessary to the Edulcoration of an Ounce of

*Quick*

*Quick Lime* : which being done, there remains about half an Ounce of a most light and insipid *Calx* in the bottom of the Vessel.

To conclude, the *bitter Purging Salt*, were very eminently distinguished from all other Salts, if no other way than by its *Medicinal Vertue* ; as in the *Second Part* of this *Treatise*, concerning its *Use*, will plainly appear.

In the mean time we will suppose that some small Portion both of *Nitre*, and *Common Salt*, and also of *Plaster*, may sometimes be mixed, not only with the *Purging Waters*, but with the *Purging Salt* it self. And what then? when it is probable, that in all Nature there is no where to be found a Body absolutely simple. Who knows not that *Silver* is mix'd with *Lead*, or *Copper*, *Gold* with *Silver*, in the same *Mine*, *Vein*, or even Lump of *Ore* ? Yet *Silver* and *Copper*, or *Silver* and *Gold*, do not therein constitute a third Metal ; but are two or more co-existent, yet separable Metals.

Nor moreover is the Identity of Bodies sufficiently defin'd, by their agreement in some *Qualities* : For so *Lead* or *Gold* do agree ; both of 'em are Bodies hard, opacous, malleable, meltable, heavy, &c. and are both therefore Metals. But nothing is *Gold*, which hath not all the qualities of *Gold*. Yet *Gold* differs not in more, or more eminent respects, from *Lead*, than doth the *bitter Purging Salt* from all the Salts aforementioned : And is therefore a very noble Salt of a distinct kind.

## CHAP. VI.

Some further Observations of the Nature of a  
Bitter Purging Salt.

OF the specifying Qualities of this Salt aforesaid, one of the principal is, its meane-ly and almost simply bitter Taste; with respect to which, the Crystals of Silver, of all other Salt that I know of, come the nearest. For these are indeed bitter; but also in a high degree; and the bitter is also joined with the greatest Austerity.

I have elsewhere \* observ'd that the *Lapis Calaminaris*, and *Silver*, have some Qualities common to them both. I dropt therefore upon the Stone a little Spirit of Nitre; and after the Ebullition thereupon arising was over, I diluted the Mixture with fair Water. This Water like the Crystals of Silver, is not only rough in the highest degree †, but very bitter. The only Mineral that I know of, endued with a bitter Taste, except the Salt of Silver, and the Purging Salt.

But whether the Purging Salt is the Product of any perfect or imperfect Silver Mine, or any

† *Rough in the highest degree.*] As in all likelihood, it also becomes in the Stomach and Bowels, when it there meet with some fretting Acid: and thereby sometimes proves a potent Astringent in *Diarrheas* thence arising.

to which the *Lapis Calaminaris* is of kin, or rather of some other; not having as yet been able to get the Mother-Mineral hereof, I leave undetermined.

However, from the foresaid Experiments, thus much is evident, That the *Bitter Purging Salt* is compounded of such certain Parts as are Potentially Acid, that is, capable of becoming Acid, and of others which are *Alcaline*; and that these are such as are also capable of becoming, in some sort, *Lixivial*.

Now in *Salts* compounded of divers Principles, the Proportion, Nature and Union of the Principles are to be consider'd. There seem to be some *Acid Particles* mixed even with *Lixivial Salts*; but in a small Quantity. On the contrary, in *Tartar*, that is, the *Salt of Wine*, there is a less quantity of those parts which are Potentially Salt; but of the *Acid* a far greater. And in much a like manner, in the *Bitter Purging Salt*. With this difference, that in the former, such Parts as are actually *Acid*, are mixt with the *Alcaline*; in the latter, such only as are potentially *Acid*.

Again, all Salts made of Lees, are *Acrimonious*. But those commonly called *Testaceous*, are, not without ground, accounted more mild: As are also some *Acid Liquors* above others, as the Juice of *Wood-Sorrel*, an Infusion of *Cremor Tartari*, and the like. All which are excell'd, in Lenity, by the Purging Salt. Which tho' upon Distillation, it yields an *Acid Spirit*; yet there is nothing of

*Acri-*

( 25 )

*Acrimony*, or Acidity, to be perceiv'd in the Salt it self; but only in its Principles, when severe and defiled with a most vehement Fire.

Neither is this Salt of a flat Taste; but extream subtil and penetrating; and upon that score, the more effectual remedy. And its admirable Subtilty hereby further appears, in that penetrating all manner of earthen Vessels, if not very well Leaded or Glaz'd, it gathers all over their Outsides in a sort of Pile like that of the *Amiantbus* or *Thrum-stone* \*.

The Principles also of this Salt, are much more inseparably mixed, than in *Tartar*, and many other Medicines. Their Union being so close and inward, that the one, *viz.* that which is Potentially Acid, seems not, tho' with a reverberating Fire, by very much more than one half, to be parted from the other. Whence it is, that whereas all other gentle *Catharticks*, do many times deceive the Physician; this Salt never fails to purge. For of all Medicines, those act upon the humours of the Body with the greatest certainty, which by the force of the Humours are least alterable. Of which number, the said Salt and other Minerals are to be accounted.

Lastly, this Salt, altho' compounded of diverse Principles, yet is it, if duly prepar'd, very pure; so as not to be alloy'd with the thousandth part

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\* *In a sort of Pile, like that of the Amiantbus.]* As also many other Salts do, when they shoot not under Water, but in the *Aer*, and so under the government of some Aerial Salt.



of any sort of Body which is a stranger to it. For if you evaporate some distill'd Water impregnated with an Ounce of this Salt; it will yield not one Grain of any Heterogeneous Salt, nor of the stony Sediment, nor of the like *Cremor*; but the same Ounce of a more pure Purging Salt.

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PART

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148

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PART the SECOND.

Of the USE of the Bitter  
Purging SALT.

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CHAP. I.

*The Use of the Bitter Purging Salt more  
generally considered.*

**T**He Use of the *Purging Waters* near *Epsom*, and others of the same kind, is so great and manifold, and so well known to our *London Physicians* of any standing and practice, that they who make a doubt of it, are hardly to be allow'd the hearing. They are experienc'd to be a very effectual remedy in sundry great Diseases, without the conjunction of any untoward Quality, and whereof, if duly prescribed, the Patient is never surpriz'd with any *ill Effect*.

One thing, and that with some shew of Reason, perhaps may be objected; That these Waters afford a stony *Cremor* upon boiling. When it may be doubted, whether they may not all afford some Matter apt for the breeding of Stone in Humane Bodies.

But this Objection is contrary to all Experience; as well that whereof I have before given an account, as that we have in the daily Practice of Physick. For by what hath been said, it appears, That this kind of stony *Cremor* gathers the top, neither of the Purging Waters, nor *Lime-water* it self, unless it be expos'd in an open Vessel, to the Air. And therefore also, that no stony Matter is bred of these Waters in a Man's Body.

But is not the Air mix'd with the humours of a Man's Body? Be it so: and so it is likewise with all Water; as is certain from Experiments made in the Air-Pump. Yet that which would never have any Lapidifick power, were it not assisted with a free Influx of the External Air. Besides that, the Air passes not into a Man's Body without being strained.

And as to practical Experience, there are some known not only to my self, but to other Physicians, who albeit they have drunk the said purging Waters plentifully, and many days together for twenty or thirty Years; yet have always been free from the Gout and Stone, either in the Kidneys or Bladder; and are in perfect health at

this

this present Time. And the Lord North before mention'd, who drank of those both at *Epsom* and *Barnet*, lived free of the said Diseases to the Age of Eighty five.

I add further, That *Lime-water* it self, which upon the access of the Air to it, presently breeds a stony *Cremor*, is yet frequently, and very safely prescribed by Physicians.

And our *Londoners* constantly make use of *Lime-water* for the refining of Sugar. By means whereof the *Molosses* are more easily separated from the Crystallized or Candied Part, which thereupon becomes perfectly pure and white.

But if the purging Water it self is to be look'd upon as an excellent Medicine, how much rather the Salt which is made of it? For that which is objected against the Use of the Water, should it for Argument sake be granted; yet is of no force against the Use of the Salt, as being depurated from all Lapidifick Matter.

The Water also, if fouled with overmuch of the *Muriatick Salt*, will sometimes work a little harshly. But the afore-commended Salt, being clear'd of that Dreg, is one of the easiest of purging Medicines.

'Tis also perfectly free from that malignant Quality belonging to most Purgers. It never ferments the Humors; never causes Sicknes, or Swooning, or any Gripes; never fails the Physician by mere Motions to Stool, nor affrights the Patient by over-purging.

Besides, the Waters are not always of equal strength, but of more or less, both in Winter and Summer, as the Season is wet or dry. And some who sell these Waters, when they find the store begins to fail, will venture to adulterate them with *common Water*; whereby the *Physicians* tho' he prescribe the usual Quantity, yet sometimes deceived in his Expectation of the usual Success. But the Salt prepared of the Waters, if pure and perfect, is always alike, and the like purging Virtue.

Physicians too in *London*, for the most part prescribe the Waters, not to be drunk raw, but boil'd; For so the quantity of the Waters being lessen'd, and yet the strength increas'd\*, they work off the *Stomach* and *Bowels* more advantageously. In Summer they should be boil'd to two thirds; in Winter to one half, which requires two or three hours: Whereas the purging Salt of the Waters being dissolv'd in any convenient Liquor, perhaps a little boil'd, is a Medicine always ready, very convenient to the Apothecary's hand, and more to the Patient's Case who in urgent Diseases lies in much pain, while he stays for a long and tedious boiling, and thereby sometimes put in danger.

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\* *The Strength increased.*] That is, proportionably to the Quantity of the Water; the Virtue of these Waters not lying in a Volatile Spirit, as in those of *Tunbridge* and the like, but in a fixed Salt.

The last, though not the least thing we may here consider, is, That the Waters, if kept a little longer than ordinary, especially in a hot Country or Season, will be corrupted and stink: Whereas the Salt extracted from them, continues every where, and always incorruptible.

But I foresee that some may doubt of the Wholsomeness even of the *Salt* it self, because that upon Distillation it yields an Acid Spirit.

But this Objection lies as much against the Use of the Waters themselves, for that in these the said *Salt* is contained.

And we may as well suspect the eating of Sugar or Honey, or the whitest Bread: from each of which a *Spirit* may be distilled, not only as *Acid* as the Spirit of the purging *Salt*, but also very *Acrimonious*. Wine also, and the most wholesome Food, when as their Principles either by Fermentation, or otherwise, are once depraved, do always partake of hurtful, and sometimes of poisonous *Qualities*. Even the Food of Infants, their Mothers Milk, if set so as to stand warm, will grow sowre in a short time. But the purging *Salt*, taken dissolved in any proper Liquor, doth not thereby suffer a Dissolution of its Principles, but retains its *Essence* or Nature unaltered; as much as do any of the above named sorts of Food when we eat them. For as the *Salt* it self, so any fair Water in which we drink the *Salt* dissolv'd, gives the same moderately *bitter Taste*, without the least *Acidity* join'd with it.

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## C H A P. II.

### *Of the Way of Prescribing the Bitter Purg- ing Salt.*

**I**T may be taken in any Liquor, agreeable to the Patient's Constitution or Palate: Spring-Water, distill'd Water, or any other very clear; a *Decoction* of *Pearl'd Barley*, thin *Water*, *Groedel*, or very thin *Panada*; *Possiet-drink*, *Whey*, and the like. I often use fair Water, a little boil'd and season'd with *Mace*; whereof I prescribe a Quart or three Pints, or two Quarts impregnated with half an Ounce, or an Ounce or more of the Purging Salt †; as for example. Take of Spring-Water two Quarts, *Mace* Drachm: Boil them a little, and in the Liquor dissolve an Ounce or ten Drachms of the *bitter*

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\* *Whey*.] The English Reader may be minded, that *Whey* is to be boiled, lest the Salt should make it curd if not before it is drunk, yet in the Stomach. † *Impregnated with half an Ounce or an Ounce of Salt, &c.*] It is here requisite to admonish an English Reader, That in taking the *Purging Salt*, he is to be guided in the manner, time and quantity, by his Constitution and Disease. And that in making a judgment of these, he is not to trust himself too far, but as his safest Course, to be advised by a Physician.



*Purging Salt*, for an *Apozeme* to be drank in the morning fasting, hot, warm, or sometimes cold, in the space of two Hours, with a little Exercise.

This *Apozeme* may be taken either by it self, or in the working of other purging Physick.

It is also convenient, upon occasion, to quicken the Operation of the Salt, by adding either *Sena* or *Manna*, or both of them to the *Mace*: as in the following or other like form.

Take two Quarts of *Spring-Water*, *Mace* a Drachm, *Alexandrian Sena* two Drachms, or three. Boil them a little; and then add an ounce of the *Bitter Purging Salt*. of the best *Calabrian Manna* an ounce and half, or two ounces; and so run the Liquor through a Sieve.

The Lord *Dudley North* was the first who drank the *Purging Waters* with Milk. But they lay heavy upon his Stomach, because he mixed them cold. Afterwards Physicians alter'd the Waters with Milk, when they boil'd. Which way, those who have a mind, may very safely take the Salt it self; as thus:

Take three Pints and a half of *Spring-Water*, of the *Bitter Purging Salt* an Ounce, or ten Drachms. Mix them, and when the Water boils; pour upon it half a Pint of new Milk, and strain the Liquor from the Curd.

In Summer, when the *Medicinal Waters* are every where frequented; this Salt cannot be taken in any thing better, than in *Tunbridge Wa-*

ter, or any other *Chalybeate* kind, or in the purging *Water* it self.

A Drachm, or a Drachm and half of this *Salt* taken in the first *three* or *four* draughts of *Tubridge Water*, or any other of the same sort, and repeated for some Mornings, prepares the Humours, and clears the way, for the intended Drinking bout.

The *Chalybeate Waters* do sometimes bite Which Inconvenience is remedied, by putting little of this *Salt* into the first or last Glasse.

It is also very usefully taken in the purging *Waters* themselves. Whereof if every draught impregnated with a Drachm of the purging *Salt* they will work off much more certainly, and with half the number; and so be less burdensome to the *Stomach*.

Nor can any thing be more proper, than sometimes to sharpen Clysters, with Three Drachms, or half an Ounce of purging *Salt*, instead of that which is commonly called *S. Gemma*.

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C H A P. III.

Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt, more particularly: And first, in Diseases of the Stomach.

W HAT I am about to say of the Purging Waters, and of their Salt, is not grounded upon mere Conjecture, but the long Experience of other very Learn'd Physicians, as well as my own. Who all of us, in the Diseases hereafter mention'd, have made use of both the aforesaid Remedies with very good Success.

First then, the Purging Waters, or the Salt made of them, are a most friendly Medicine to the Stomach, viz. in promoting both an Appetite and a good Digestion. Partly, from one of its Principles, which is Potentially Acid; and partly from the addition of the Alcaline, and thereby the Bitterness of the whole. And from the former so much the rather, because it affords a Spirit somewhat of kin to the Spirit of Common Salt, the Seasoner of all Food: yet from the latter withal; seeing we experience the Stomach to be strengthen'd with most things which are bitter. And 'tis well known that they are compounded Salts which whet the Appetite most of all. For Pickles are generally made not with Brine alone, but with the addition of Vine-

gar. And good Claret, as at Meals it is the most acceptable; so is it impregnated with a greater quantity of *Tartar* (a compounded Salt) than any other Wine. The Salt too of *Steel* (which is a compounded one) among other Stomachic Medicines, is none of the least note. And those two universal Digestors, Bread and Spittle, which the one contains an Acid Salt, the other an Alcaline, being mixt together, perform the office of a *compounded Salt*. In a word, the Ferment or Digester of the Stomach it self, is compounded both of *Alcaline* and *Acid* Parts; those derived from the Arterial Blood, these in part from the *Nerves*, or the *Dregs* of the Animal Spirits: in proof whereof there are sundry Arguments, which I shall not here insist upon. So long then as the Stomach is furnish'd with both these Salts in a suitable measure, the business of Concoction is rightly perform'd: But if either of them be predominant, sometimes *Acid* Salt and sometimes *Alcaline*, are necessary to restore them to a due proportion.

When by eating or drinking over-much, that which is unwholsom, Concoction is faulty *Vomiting* often follows: For the staying whereof the Purging Water, or the Salt made of it, is an excellent Medicine. For the same reason as that so celebrated Mixture of Salt of *Worwood* and the Juice of *Lemons*. And is herein superiour to it, in that it both destroys and expels from the Stomach all kinds of Peccant Salts, as it were with one stroak. Where

Wherefore also in the *Stomach-ach*, and other like Pains, nothing is safer or more effectual than the aforefaid Medicine.

And so likewise in the *Hypocondriacal Affection with heat*.

In these Diseases, I have sometimes prescribed the Purging Waters, or the Salt made of them, alone. But ordinarily not without the Assistance of Bleeding, Vomiting, and other like Remedies. It being the part of a prudent Physician, especially in great and dangerous Diseases, not to betrust his *Patient's* Health, and the Valuation of his own Fame, to any one Remedy \*, tho' never so highly in vogue.

Now these Remedies are, according unto Indications, infinitely to be vary'd. Some Forms whereof, notwithstanding, the Learned Reader may be pleased to look over, as here they follow.

*To quicken a decay'd Appetite.*

Take a Flask of *Spaw-water*, or a Quart or three Pints of any other Chalybeate Water; or

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\* *Not to betrust——to any one Remedy.*] The English Reader is here again admonished, for two Reasons, not to be over-busie with this Medicine, so as to use it upon all occasions; as we say, hand over head. First, because he can very seldom be a competent Judge of his own Case; nor therefore whether the Salt be proper for it, or no. And, Secondly, because, tho' it should be so, yet he skills not those other Remedies usually necessary to be joined with it; and so may be the Author of is own hurt, not so much in what he doth, as in omitting what he should have done.

if not to be had, of *Mac'd Water*; of the *Bitter*  
*Purging Salt* half an Ounce, six Drachms or an  
Ounce: Mix, and drink them fasting, and a little  
warmed.

And for the better drinking of all sorts of  
*Chalybeate Waters* \*, if the Physician thinks fit  
a little warm, without the loss of its most *sub-*  
*tile Spirit*: The *Bottle* in which they are kept  
being set in a *Vessel of hot Water* for some *Min-*  
*utes of an Hour*, is then to be open'd, and af-  
ter the pouring out of every *Glass*, to be well  
stopped again.

While these are drinking, let the *Patient* take  
an hour before *Dinner* *twenty, thirty, or forty*  
*Drops of Elixir Proprietatis* †, in a spoonful of  
*Sherry or Purl Royal*: And let him continue the

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\* And for the better drinking all sorts of *Chalybeate Waters* ] The Readers may ask, But how can we come by these Waters at a distance from the *VVells*? And it may be asked with a little *Indignation*, *VVhy* any part of *England* should want good *Tunbridge* water, when we have the *Spaw* water (the *Spirit* whereof is altogether as *Volatile* as that of *Tunbridge-water*) at a far greater distance? It is but putting it into the same kind of *Flasks*, with long and slender *Necks*, and stopping them with the same care, (with *Corks* dipped in melted *Pitch*, and thrust into the *Flasks* at the same instant in which they are filled, and then covered with some of the same *Pitch*, and over that with a *Piece of soft Leather*) and the thing is done. And then the *Trial* whether this *Care* hath been used, is easily made, by its turning *Purple*, upon mixing a little of it with the *Powder* of an *Dyer's Gall*. † *Elixir Proprietatis*.] That made with *Oil of Sulphur*, is best in this case.

Use

Use of these either every, or each other Day, repeating them four, five, or six times. Or,

Take two Ounces of the Conserve of *Roman Wormwood*, Conserve of *Garden Scurvy-grass* an Ounce, preserv'd *Ginger* half an Ounce, *Species Aromatica Garyophillata* || a Drachm and half, *Winterane Barque*, and the true Salt of *Wormwood*, of each a Drachm, Syrup of *Clove-July flowers*, enough to make them into an Electuary. Let the Patient take as much as a large Nutmeg going to Bed, and of a small Walnut an hour before Dinner, with a little of the aforesaid Wine, or without it, if it gives him the Head ach. Or,

Take of the new and bright Filings of *Steel* three Ounces, of the tops of *Roman Wormwood* half a Handful, the Root of *Roman Cyperus* and *Calamus Aromaticus*, of each a Drachm, the lesser *Galangale*, *Cinamon*, and *Saffron*, of each half a Drachm, and a Quart of *White wine* or *Sherry*. Let them be digested with a gentle Heat, or stand in a warm room, in a *Bottle* well stopped, for three days, shaking them every day. Pour off the *Infusion*, and let the Patient take two, three, or four Spoonfuls every day, two hours before dinner.

To stay Vomiting.

Take of any *Chalybeate Water*, or instead of that, three Pints, or two Quarts of *Spring wa-*

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[[ *Species Aromatica Garyophillata* ] - A Compounded Powder in the *London Dispensatory*.

ter season'd with *Mace*, of the *bitter Purgings Salt* six Drachms, an Ounce, or ten Drachms Mix, and drink them fasting warm, or cold, as you like them best, repeating them thrice, or oftner, if need be, either every, or each other day; and join herewith the following Pills.

Take *Red Roses* and strong *Cinamon*, of each a Drachm, *Cloves*, and *Salt of Steel* of each a Scruple, *Saffron* half a Scruple, the *Chymical Oil of Mint* eight drops, and as much *Syrup of Steel* as will make them up into twenty four Pills. Let the *Patient*, take three of them every day, two hours before a Dinner of *Spoon-meat*, and as many going to bed.

A *Fomentation* made with a hot *Infusion* of *Mint* and *Red Roses*, and an ounce of *Venice Treacle* in *Claret-Wine*, may sometimes be of great use.

*In the Pain of the Stomach like the Cholick.*

Take of the best *Sena* two drachms, *Mace* a drachm: Boil them in a sufficient quantity of *Spring-water*, to three Pints or two Quarts; and to the strain'd Liquor add six drachms, an ounce, or ten drachms of the *Bitter Purgings Salt*, *Syrup of Steel* an ounce and half; for *Purgings Apozeme*, to be drunk in the Morning after the usual manner. Or it may be made without *Sena*\*, and taken either by it self, or with the following Pills.

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\* Or without *Sena*.] That is, when it gripes the Patient.



Take of the Stomach-Pill with Gums † twenty five Grains, fine Filings of Steel ten grains, Syrup of Steel a few drops: Mix, and make them into four Pills, to be taken going to bed. The next Morning take the *Apozeme* as aforesaid; and so for three days together, or longer.

Sometimes it may be convenient to mix with the Pills the *Extract of Gentian*, or some other bitter Extract :

As also half a Grain, or a Grain of *London Laudanum*, if the Pain be great.

*In the Hypochondriacal Affection with Heat.*

Take of any *Chalybeate Water* a Quart, three Pints, or two Quarts; dissolve in each draught half a drachm or a drachm of the *bitter Purging Salt*, to seven or eight draughts, and drink them cold.

Or instead of *Chalybeate Waters*, it may be taken in simple Milk water, or distill'd from the Leaves of *Borage* and *Burnet*.

*In the Heart Burning.*

In which Disease the Salt may be successfully taken in like manner, as in the last aforementioned.

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† *The Stomach Pill with Gums.*] A Pill in the *London Dispensatory*.

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C H A P. IV.

Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt, in Diseases of the Guts, and Parts adjacent: And first in the Cholick.

**I**T is not necessary to pre-monish the Learned and Experienced *Physician*, that in this Disease, letting Blood is seldom or never to be committed, and to be done in the first place.

Next, it is very advisable, that the following or other like *Clyster*, be injected.

Take a Pint of the *common Decoction* for a *Clyster* \*, adding to the other Ingredients to be boil'd three Drachms, or half an Ounce, of the best *Sena*. In the strained *Liquor* dissolve half an Ounce, or five Drachms of the *Bitter Purging Salt*, of the Species *Hieræ Picræ* † a Drachm and half, or two Drachms; brown Sugar 2 Ounces. With this, or some such *Clyster*, the Pains are often dissipated, or at least the way is open'd for the Passage of internal *Medicines* through the Bowels.

A Scruple, or half a Drachm of *Pilula Ru-*

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\* *The common Decoction for a Clyster.*] That is, a Decoction prescribed under that Title in the *London Dispensatory*  
† *Species Hieræ Picræ.*] A compounded Powder so called in the *London Dispensatory*.

*dii* \*, together with a Grain, or a Grain and half of *London Laudanum*, are oftentimes given with good success.

And sometimes *Quicksilver*, if the *Patient* swallows enough of it, as four or six Ounces : and especially if it be taken in about two Ounces of the *Tinctura Sacra* ; that is, the Tincture of the Species *Hieræ Picræ*, made with White-wine, or in some other convenient Purger.

But of all other *Medicines*, the Purging Waters, or the *Salt* made of them, is the noblest, being taken in the following, or other like manner.

Take of *Spring*, or *River-Water* seasoned with *Mace*, three Pints and half, *Chamemile-flower-water*, or *Mint-water*, six Ounces ; of the *Bitter Purging Salt* an Ounce or ten Drachms ; and an Ounce and half, or two Ounces of the best *Manna* : Mix them for an *Apozeme*. Let the *Patient* take about half a Wine-Pint at a draught hot, and all of it in an hour, or an hour and half : altho' he should vomit some part of it.

This *Medicine* is sometimes more effectual, if it assisted with the following.

Take of the *Tinctura Sacra* two, three, or four Ounces ; and hereof a Spoonful or two, before every draught of the aforesaid *Apozeme*.

#### *In the Worms.*

The same Salt, if the *Nurse* mixes a Drachm,

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\* *Pilula Rudii.*] A Pill in the *London Dispensatory*.

or a drachm and half, with any Food, commonly made for Children, without Milk, will expel the Worms.

Especially if the Physician shall premise the taking in some convenient manner, a Grain of *Mercurius dulcis*; or of the *Crystals* or *Salt* of *Silver*; or two or three Grains, according to the Age of the Patient.

Or if the *Purging Salt* be dissolved in bitter Clysters.

*In Nephritick Pains.*

In this Disease, as well as in the *Cholick*, 'tis proper, for the most part, to begin with *Bleeding*; and oftentimes also to repeat it.

To which also a Vomit of *Vinum Benedictum*, or *Sal Vitrioli*, especially if the Patient be inclinable to vomit, is very aptly subjoin'd. For by virtue hereof, not only the Stomach it self (sometimes the first in fault) is unloaded; but all the Nervous Parts bordering on the *Kidneys*, and extremely suffering in this Disease, are relieved.

After this, especially if the Patient hath no Stool with the Vomit, let the following Clyster be injected

Take of *Chamemile flowers* a handful, *Cummine-Seeds*, *Sweet Fenil seeds*, and *Parsley seeds*, all bruised, of each an ounce, *Marsh Mallow Root*

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\* *Nephritick Pains.*] That is, Pains in and about the *Kidneys* or *Reins*.

sliced

Sliced and bruised, two ounces: Boil them in a sufficient quantity of fair *Water* to a Pint. To the strain'd Liquor add half an ounce of *Turpentine* dissolved in the Yolk of an Egg, half an ounce of the *bitter Purging Salt*, and Syrup of *Marsh-Mallows* three ounces. Mix them for a Clyster.

If the Pains are very great, add to the Clyster forty or fifty drops of *Cydoniated Liquid Laudanum*. Upon the working of this, or the like Clyster, the Patient oftentimes, will make Water with, or without a Stone or Gravel, and the Pains go off.

But if they are so pertinacious, as still to continue, we must have recourse to the following Apozeme, as the most promising Remedy.

Take of the *Decoction of Pearl Barley* seasoned with *Mace*, three Pints, or two Quarts; six Drachms, or an Ounce of the *bitter Purging Salt*; Syrup of *Marsh-Mallows* three or four Ounces. Mix them for an Apozeme, to be taken hot, in an hour, an hour and half, or two hours, or thereabout, altho' the Patient should vomit some part of it.

#### *In Hot Urine.*

In which *Disease* the same Apozeme is available, whether it proceedeth from the sharpness of the Blood, or a *Veneréal Gonorrhœa*.

#### *In an Ischury.*

And so likewise in an *Ischury*, or total Suppression of *Urine*; whether it happens without a

*Stone,*

Stone, or without one big enough to stop the Passages of Urine.

Yet if the *Disease* hath been of some days continuance, the *Patient* must presently bleed, abundantly. Next, inject a pretty sharp *Clyster* with Syrup of *Spina Cervina*, the *Bitter Purgin*, Salt, &c. During the Operation whereof, it will be very useful to drink the aforesaid *Apozema* or some Draughts of it. Especially, if a spoonful of the following Mixture be taken before every Draught.

Take *Fenil* and *Saxifrage Water*, of each an Ounce and half, Salt of *Amber* a Drachm, *Tartarum Vitriolatum* a Scruple, prepar'd *Millepedes* two Drachms, Syrup of *Marsh-mallows* an Ounce. Mix them.

#### *In a Diabetes.*

In which most dangerous Disease, if there be need of some very gentle Evacuation, the said Waters, or Salt, in regard either of them moves very easily, and cools much, is of all others the safest, if not the only Purge. With the help whereof, in conjunction with the constant use of *Chalybeate Waters*, of any sort, and also of *Hypnoticks* \*, I have restored some (but those indeed *Young*) when near dying, unto perfect Health.

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\* *And also of Hypnoticks.*] That is, sleeping Medicines: very useful and necessary in this Disease, tho' the Patient be faint and weak; because that Sleep stops all Evacuations but Sweat.

In the Jaundies.

Bleeding likewise in this Disease is seldom to be omitted. Yea, to be repeated, if the Patient be somewhat more feverish.

Neither are Vomits of less use : both as they rid the Stomach of its morbidick Load, and also pump up the Gall, which stagnates in its own Bladder : And should therefore be repeated at convenient Intervals, if there be need. Especially, if these and other Remedies, proving less successful, shall give cause to suspect there are some Stones, which by their Number or Bulk, stop the Canale, by which the Gall passes into the Guts : in which case we must persist with a prudent Resolution.

But in any sort of Jaundies, with Stones in the Gall, or without, the Purging Water or its Salt, is very properly given in the following or other like manner.

Take of *Pilula Ruffi* half a Drachm, *Rhubarb*, and *Volatile Salt of Urine*, of each half a Scruple, Syrup of *Wormwood* enough to make them into six Pills, to be taken going to bed. In the Morning following let the Patient drink this *Apozeme*.

Take two Ounces of the Shavings of *Haris-born*; boil them in three Quarts of *Spring-water* to two : Then add *Mace* and *Turmerick*, of each a Drachm ; and having boil'd them a little, dissolve in the strain'd *Liquor* the *Bitter Purging Salt*.

Salt and Syrup of Steel, of each an Ounce, and an *Apozeme*, to be drank as usually.

If the Physician sees it convenient, instead of the foremention'd Pills, he may give the following Draught.

Take an Ounce and half, or two Ounces of the *Tinctura Sacra*, an Ounce of Syrup of *Cycory* made with *Rhubarb*\*, *Tartarum Vitriolatum* half a Scruple. Mix them for a Draught to be taken about six or seven a-clock in the Morning. And after two hours let the *Patient* drink the *Apozeme* before prescrib'd: And so repeat them every, or each other Day.

If *Aloetick Medicines* heat the *Patient*, the *fusion* of *Rhubarb*, &c. may do better.

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## C H A P. V.

Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt, in Diseases of the Head. And first, in Madness.

**I**N Madness, besides Bleeding and repeated Vomits, it is likewise often necessary to use phallick Ointments, a Seton in the Neck, Blister Plaisters, especially laid on the Legs, Purges, and other Remedies.

To further the Operation of Purging Me

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\* Syrup of Cichory made with *Rhubarb*.] A Compound Syrup in the London Dispensatory.



es, whether prepared with *Hellebore*, or o-  
ers, nothing can be more proper than the  
*Purging Water*, or their *Salt*, given in this or c-  
er like manner.

Take the Leaves of *Bawm* or *Borage*, of each  
handful: Infuse them in two Quarts or five  
nts of boil'd *Spring water* while 'tis hot, and  
them stand in a Vessel well covered for half  
hour. Add to the strain'd Infusion an  
ounce or ten Drachms of the *Bitter Purging Salt*,  
Syrup of *Violets* three Ounces; Mix them for  
an *Apozeme* to be drunk by it self, or with any  
convenient Purge instead of *Posset drink*. Or,

Take an Ounce of the *Bitter Purging Salt*:  
Dissolve a Drachm in a Draught of *Spaw-water*,  
of any other *Chalybeate* kind; and let the Pa-  
tient drink eight such draughts.

The same *Water* or *Salt* may likewise be very  
effectually taken in the same manner, in the Inter-  
vals of other *Purgations*; especially in Summer.  
For it greatly allays the *Maniacal Turbulency* of  
the Humours and Spirits.

### *In the Head-ach.*

In which Disease, and the rather if proceed-  
ing from a *hot Cause*, or join'd with a *hot Consti-  
tution*, there is nothing in the Art of Physick  
which I have found more effectual than the fol-  
lowing, or such like method.

First, let a sufficient Quantity of Blood be

taken away from the Arm, or elsewhere, as sh<sup>e</sup> seem most convenient.

Next, let a Vomit be given, or omitted, the *Patient's* Strength, and other Circumstances shall direct: And then the following Medicines.

Take prepar'd *Scammony*, powder'd *Rhubarb* and *Mercurius Dulcis*, of each ten, twelve, fourteen Grains, Syrup of *Spina Cervina* enough to make them into five Pills, to be taken at four or five a-clock in the Morning, and let the *Patient* sleep upon it. After three hours, let him drink this *Apozeme*.

Take of *Spring-water* season'd with *M* three Pints or two Quarts, six Drachms or Ounce of the *Bitter Purging Salt*, and Syrup of *Violets* two Ounces: mix and take them by convenient Draughts, and keep your self warm the working.

Let the same *Apozeme* be repeated with the *Pills* now before prescrib'd, every third or fourth day; and on the days between by it self. And in like manner continu'd, if need be, for a Fortnight or three Weeks.

#### *In the Megrin.*

It is necessary also in this case, to begin with *Bleeding*; and the rather, if it proceeds from drinking over-much Wine: and first, by opening a Vein in the *Arm*.

Next, by *Cupping-Glasses* applied with *Scarification*

fication †, not only to the *Shoulders*, but to the *binder part of the Head* it self, being first shaved. To which *Part*, as well in this *Disease*, as in the *Head-ach*, and *Inflammations of the Eyes*, I commonly order them to be applied, rather than to any other, and with better success. After *Bleeding*, give the following *Medicines*.

Take of *Pilula Mastichina* || two *Scruples*, and five *Drops* of *Chymical Oil of Majorane*: Mix, and take them going to bed. On the next *Morning* drink this *Apozeme*.

Take *Spring water* season'd with *Mace*, a *Quart* or three *Pints*, four *Ounces* of the *Water of Sage of Virtue*, of *Sweet-Majorane-water* two *Ounces*, and six *Drachms* of the *Bitter Purging Salt*: Mix, and take them in the usual manner.

Sometimes it may be useful to take a *Spoonful* of the following *Mixture* before every draught.

Take the *Leaves of Sweet-Majorane* and *Sage of Virtue*, of each two *Drachms*, *Gentian-Root*, and the *Species of Hiera Picra*, of each two *Scruples*, and four *Ounces* of *White-wine*. Digest them twelve hours in a *Bottle* well stopped,

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† *Cupping-Glasses applied with Scarification.*] This *Operation*, as it is commonly performed in *England*, is both *rightful* and *painful*. But the *Glasses* being warmed with a *Lamp*, instead of being filled with flaming *Tow*; and a *Phlebm* used (by *Filliping*) instead of a *Launce*, after the *German way*; it is altogether as *easy* as *bleeding* at the *Arm*.

|| *Pilula Mastichina* ] A *Compounded Pill* in the *London Dispensatory*.

and then let the *Tincture* be strongly press'd out, and stand, till the muddy Parts being settled, it becomes clear.

## C H A P. VI.

*Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt in several other Diseases. And first, in Mother-Fits.*

**I**N which case, after the more grievous Symptoms are allay'd by the use of *Opiates* \*, to ten or twelve Drachms, or two Ounces of the *Tinctura Sacra* (made with two parts of *White wine*, and one part of *Hysterick Water* †) may be given, for the most part, with good success.

But if the Physician sees it convenient to give a more temperate Purge; that so often commended, in regard it works so gently, may be safely drunk: and with the greater Benefit, instead of *Maced Water* the *Purging Salt* be dissolved either in the *Spaw water*, or that of *Bawm*

*In the Wandring Gout.*

Which is commonly, but erroneously, called a *Rheumatism*. For that this falls upon the *Mu*

\* *By the use of Opiates.*] The English Reader is here admonished to be very wary in meddling with this sort of Medicines, whether liquid or solid. A Dose containing a Grain or a Grain and half of *Opium*, not to be exceeded, without special Occasion and Direction. † *Hysterick Water.*] Compounded Water in the *London Dispensatory*.

*cular Parts*, that only on the Joints. 'Tis a stubborn Disease, and often requires a good Set of Remedies:

Begin with *Bleeding*, and repeat it every, or each other day, to the fourth, or if need be, to the fifth or sixth time.

After the first or second *Bleeding*, I find a *Vomit* to be, oftentimes, of very great use. For so long as the *Sromach* is foul, it sends new Matter every day to the *Blood* and *Joints* to feed the *Disease*.

But for *Purges*, and those of the stronger sort, albeit they are sometimes for a few days to be *deferr'd*: yet are hardly ever to be *omitted*. One good *Purge*, commonly more prevailing \* against this Disease than three or four *Bleedings*.

Now the Operation of these *Purges*, in regard the Patient is seldom without some Fever †, is much more gently performed, and without putting the Humours into a Ferment, with the help of the *Purging Waters*, or their *Salt*; which may be taken with them in the following manner.

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\* One good *Purge* prevailing more than three or four *Bleedings*.] And besides the speeding of the Cure, the ill Effects which sometimes follow upon the taking away so great a Quantity of Blood, are avoided. † The Patient seldom without some Fever.] Which may give occasion to some, even Physicians, to suspect the use of strong Purges in this Case. But his Fever is not a *Febris Synochus*, that is, the ordinary sort of continual Fever; much less with any malignant Properties, which should forbid the Purgation here prescribed.

Take of the Powder of *Rosinous Jalap* half Drachm, six Grains of prepar'd *Scammony*, *Calomel* half a Scruple, Syrup of *Spina Cervina* enough to make a *Bolus*, to be taken at five a clock in the Morning, and let the *Patient* sleep upon it. And after three hours drink this *Apozeme*.

Take an ounce and half of *Pearl Barley*, three ounces of *Corins*: Boil them in Spring-water enough, to a Quart and half a Pint, or three Pints and half; adding towards the end of the boiling, half a Drachm of *Mace*. In the strained *Liquor*, dissolve an ounce of the bitter *Purging Salt* and half an ounce, an ounce, or an ounce and half of the best *Manna*, for an *Apozeme*.

If the *Patient* is not easily wrought upon, and other *Coindicants* also shall direct it, let him take six drachms or an ounce of Syrup of *Spina Cervina* in the first draught: And let the *Bolus* be repeated with this or the like *Apozeme*, every other, or third, or fourth day, as shall seem best to the *Physician*, or with longer Interval till the *Patient* is perfectly recover'd.

In the Beginning and Increase of the *Disease* every, or at least each other Night, and constantly after *Purgation*, a convenient *Opiate* \* is to be given, whereby to hinder the *Efferescence* of the *Humours*, and their renewed *Influx* upon the *Joints*.

When, either because the *Fever* is somewhat

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\* *A Convenient Opiate.*] Here the English Reader is again admonished, as a little before in this Chapter.

high, or the *Patient* weak, Purgation is for some time to be deferr'd: *Blistring Plaisters* being applied about four Inches above or below the diseas'd Joints, give great Relief. And sometimes the serous Part of the Blood is so very hot and unbridl'd, as to baffle all the aforesaid Remedies, till by the help of *Blisters* it is in some measure separated from the red, which is the softer part of the *Blood*.

In this *Disease*, those *Medicines* which provoke *Sweat*, altho' plentifully, yet hardly do any good. But *Diureticks* are taken with advantage: for which reason also *Apozemes* impregnated, as aforesaid, with the *Purging Salt*, are the more convenient; as working both by *Stool* and *Urine* at the same time.

While the *Patient* is under cure, let him abstain from *Wine* and *winy Liquors*, and all *Malt Drinks* unboiled. Fresh and clarify'd, that is, boil'd *Whey* is of all other *Drinks*, the most excellent \* †.

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\* *Whey, of all other Drinks, the most excellent.* ] That is, in this case. For what can better subdue the Acrimony of the serous Blood, than to dilute it with so soft a Liquor of its own kind? † Whereas this *Disease* as usually managed, will hold and vex the *Patients* for six Weeks or two Months, and sometimes longer: The *Author* has assur'd me, that by the *Method* he hath here prescrib'd, he has commonly set them up in a *Fortnight* or three Weeks at the most; and that some of them have been perfectly recover'd in a *Week* or ten Days: especially upon giving, after once or twice *Bleeding*, a good brisk *Vomit*; where there hath been great occasion for it.

*In some sorts of Itch.*

Not that which is contagious or catching, but bred of the *Scurvy*; spreading sometimes all over the Body, sometimes confined to the *Pudenda*, or some other certain Parts. In both which Cases I have often found the last prescribed *Apozeme*, repeated with or without other Purgers, to be effectual; and have blessed some with the Pleasure of *Ease*, after they have been tortured and tir'd out with perpetual scratching. Especially if they have been constantly kept to a good quantity of the *Chalybeate Waters*, instead of all other Drink.

The same *Apozeme* after the *Small Pox* are sheld off, is very properly us'd.

And with most Purges in the room of *Posset-drink*.

To conclude, those who upon a long Journey and chiefly in Summer, are wont to be *costive*; by two or three Drachms of this *Salt* taken in a draught or two of Spring-water, will hereby keep themselves soluble, and very cool.

## C H A P. VII.

*Of the Mis-use of the Bitter Waters, and of their Salt.*

**I**T behoves a Physician, not only to shew the use of Remedies, but also to caution the Reader



der to beware of their *Mis-use*; whereby is done a threefold Injury, to the Patient, the Physician and the Medicine it self.

This therefore, the Virtues whereof I have now enumerated, is in some *Diseases* by no means to be prescribed: And in some others, regard is to be had to the Causes and the Symptoms.

In all *Dropsies* whatsoever it doth hurt: Because that here the native Heat is very languid, and that stock of Spirits which is seated in the *Grumous* part of the Blood, very poor. Where likewise the use, even of a Liquid Diet, hastens the float of the *Serum* of the Blood, upon the Parts which lie already, as it were, under Water.

As also in a *continual Fever*, even the ordinary kind. Wherein, tho' the Cause is sometimes, by little and little, to be purged off: yet is this to be done, rather with such *Medicines* as are moderately *Hot*, as the *Decoctum amarum*, *Pilula Ruffi*, and the like \*; and by which, the *Concoction* of the Humours is promoted at the same time. And therefore, whatsoever may prove a

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\* *The Decoctum Amarum, Pilula Ruffi, and the like* ] Dispensatory Medicines; which the Author allows to be sometimes given in a continual Fever: and he speaks to Physicians. But the English Reader is to take the same care, not to be over-busie with Purges in a Fever, as not with Opiates in any Case. Because that in many Fevers, no sort of Purge can be safely given. And if given at the beginning of a Fever (as is sometimes unwarily done, before the Fever apparently shews it self) it commonly proves fatal to the Patient.

( 82 )  
hinderance herein, by over-cooling, we must beware of it.

Neither is it any way serviceable in an *Ague*. Nor to Girls in the *Green sickness*. Whose Feverish Heats are kindled from too much *Acidity*, some where or other in their Humours, which are to be sweetned with more potent *Alcalies*.

'Tis also to be denied to those that spit Blood. Left by its great and penetrating subtilty it should open the Mouths of the *Arteries*.

And in the *Disease* call'd *Cholera Morbus*. Wherein those sudden *Evacuations* which are made, are follow'd with a great sinking of the Spirits. Which kind of *Motions* made by *Nature*, while she trips with over-much haste, are rather to be quieted with *Cordials* and *Opiates*\*, given now and then. But after the force of the *Disease* is broken, if there be need of any farther *Evacuation*, and the Patient be of a *Bilious Constitution*, whether *Native* or *Adventitious*, he may then drink the said *Salt* to good purpose.

'Tis also to be forboren in a *Palsie*: Left the *Muscles*, which are already destitute of their *Native Heat* and *Vigour*, should thereby be more weakned. Yet if the *Disease* is bred of a *Hot*

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\* To be quieted with *Cordials* and *Opiates*.] The English Reader is again admonished to use the same Caution, with respect to all sorts of *Opiates*, as in the foregoing Chapter. And the rather here, because in a *Disease* which often happens unto young Children.

*Cause*, as *Wine*, or any *Winy Liquor*; I have  
prescrib'd it both safely, and with Effect.

'Tis not to be allow'd to *Women with Child*,  
but with Circumspection.

Nor in a Suppression of *Urine*, before it appears,  
all things being well weighed, that it depends  
neither upon an *Ulcer* in the *Bladder*, nor a *Stone*  
too big to pass; in either of which *Cases*, the  
*Patient* is to abstain from all *Diureticks*. But  
otherwise I have often given this *Medicine* with  
very good Success; that is to say, in bringing  
away the *Urine*, and *Stones* with it, not of the  
least size.

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F I N I S.

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